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501ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE
USAG YONGSAN, SOUTH KOREA "RED DRAGONS - STRIKE WITH FIRE"



501ST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY SUMMER CONFERENCE IN CHAMPYEUNG

By CPT MAIA

It was a cool morning as MSG Ravenscroft and I arrived at the Universal Language Academy (ULA) Summer Conference location 35 miles East from Seoul. The ULA is a private after school English program located in Seoul but their summer retreat site was outside Seoul in Champyeong. The site was very peaceful when compared to the craziness that happens in downtown Seoul, with mountains all around and next to a river dam. The Korean teachers were very excited that we were able to come and support them in this English camp. The principal, Dr. Huang along with the school administrator Ms. Joanna Bae, approached me 3 weeks earlier asking if American Soldiers could come to their English Summer Conference camp in order to emphasize to the young Korean generation (ages 6-13 years old) the importance of the friendship between the U.S. and Korean Armies.

All of the 90 kids arrived the day prior as they went through their 2-day stay at this retreat site. As I prepared to give them a class on the History of the Korean War, they were very interested that an Army Soldier had come. I think they were interested because they were broken down into smaller groups and each group of 10 kids was a 'battalion' and everyone had ranks and received awards for good behavior. The teachers also told me to emphasize to the kids that the American Army is not the enemy of Korea as some schools in Korea have been

teaching them that we are. Some of the Korean Teachers' Unions apparently have some communist influence.

During the whole presentation the kids looked very interested and answered questions as I asked them. Towards the end of the presentation I asked them if the US Army was a friend or enemy and they all said "friend!" When I opened the floor for questions, in the beginning they were shy but as the first one asked a question, many followed after. Some of the questions were, "What's your job? Have you been to war? What do you do every day?"

After the presentation, MSG Ravenscroft took the kids outside in order to give them a taste of drill and Army physical training. Surprisingly enough the kids obeyed and executed his commands.

As we finished our time with them, many of the kids felt amicable toward us and asked for autographs on their summer camp booklets and wanted to take pictures with us. Many were curious if we were married and if we had kids.

Dr. Huang called me the following week to tell me that we are the kids' favorite teachers. She also said that they placed our pictures all over their school. In conclusion, we took a relatively small amount of time (3 hours) to meet with them and our impact on their views of America was greater than anyone can measure. 🇺🇸

